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PRELIMINARY DRAFT LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT*

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

1. The United Nations World Population Conference (Bucharest, 1974) and the World Population Plan of Action adopted at that meeting were milestones in the evolution of population issues at the global level. In the twenty years since then, the region has experienced sweeping changes. Chapter II of this document summarizes the changes in the region's population dynamics, as well as the progress made and the obstacles faced by the countries in their efforts to implement their population policies and to integrate demographic variables into their development policies and programmes.

2. The economic difficulties of recent years have highlighted the need to introduce changes in the areas of production and labour relations, so as to situate the region within the new international context, and to abandon simplistic dualities, such as those which oppose growth to equity, manufacturing to agriculture, domestic to foreign markets, planning to market dynamics, or the State to private agents. Overcoming the last of these dualities is especially important in order to broaden the area for cooperation between Governments, private sectors and non-governmental organizations.

3. The crisis of the 1980s exacerbated inequalities in terms of access to the fruits of development and thus increased the poverty of vast sectors of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean. In that regard, the Governments of the region have expressed, in various forums, their firm intention to integrate population issues more effectively into the development process, assigning priority to social concerns while simultaneously addressing the need for environmental sustainability, within a framework of democracy and participation so as to ensure full respect for individual rights, including reproductive rights.[1]

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[1] In light of the guidelines and mandate established by the member Governments, the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has adopted the concept of changing production patterns with social equity as the frame of reference and the linchpin of its analyses of development. In this regard, see the following texts: ECLAC, Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns: An Integrated Approach (LC/G.1701/Rev.1-P), Santiago, Chile, 1992. United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.II.G.5; ECLAC/CELADE, Population, Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns (LC/G.1758/Rev.1-P; LC/DEM/G.131/Rev.1-Serie E, No. 37), Santiago, Chile, 1993. United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.G.8.

4. The objectives and goals derived from the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, described in chapter III of this document, constitute a desideratum for the region in relation to the links among population, development and the environment and to progress in ensuring respect for human rights and correcting the inequality of living conditions observed among different social and ethnic groups and geographic areas and between men and women.

5. On the premise that greater mutual support among the countries of the region will help achieve more solid progress towards the realization of those objectives and goals, the general purposes of this Plan are intended precisely to facilitate integration and the exchange of national experiences in the formulation and application of population policies and programmes, both recent and current, together with those which will emerge from the implementation of this Plan; to support the design of policies and programmes to harmonize each Latin American and Caribbean country's rate of population growth and territorial distribution with its economic and social development strategies; to encourage an understanding of population issues and of the usefulness of adopting population policies; to stimulate political, technical and financial support for national efforts in this area; to strengthen relations between the region and other developing and developed nations; to identify priorities for technical cooperation in this field and mechanisms for their implementation; to facilitate agreements among nations for the joint execution of activities to ensure the institutionalization of population policy and the development of instruments and highly trained professionals to implement them.[2]

B. REGIONAL ACTIONS UNDER THE PLAN AND NATIONAL ACTIONS

6. Chapter IV of this document offers an initial outline of actions that could help to fulfil the general objectives mentioned above. It should be noted that the regional actions described in chapter IV are not intended to achieve fully, by themselves, all the objectives proposed in chapter III. In fact, most of those objectives call for national action, and their fulfillment will depend on the measures taken by the competent national entities; thus, regional action can only be viewed as a complement to national efforts. Of the objectives presented in chapter III, only those whose achievement could probably be facilitated by joint action among countries are discussed in chapter IV.

7. It should be noted that the objectives and recommendations for action presented in chapter III relate primarily to the national level; basically, they are recommendations that apply to each of the countries of the region, in the collective view of all of them. Naturally, it is understood that each country will adapt them to its own circumstances when acting on them. Those national objectives will be pursued through initiatives which, by definition, are also national. Regional action, which is discussed in this Plan and presented in chapter IV, is intended to support those national activities. Thus, by reflecting the common denominator of national objectives, chapter III will also orient regional action.

8. The Regional Plan deals with regional activities that are meant to support or facilitate national action. National plans are coordinated and executed according to the sovereign decisions of the respective countries which, in pursuit of their objectives, may have recourse to international technical cooperation.

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[2] In this document, the term "policies and programmes" is used generically and may include strategies, plans, policies, programmes, projects and activities.

For that reason, this Plan does not include the execution of either national plans or national technical cooperation projects among its objectives.

9. In each case, regional initiatives will be executed by the most appropriate institution. In some cases, the task may be assigned to a specialized international organization; in others, to a national public agency, a non-governmental organization or a university. The entity chosen must be capable of organizing activities to benefit all or some of the countries of the region.

10. In order to increase this Plan's chances of success, chapter IV, section B, of this document describes mechanisms for adequate follow-up of the Plan's implementation and constant updating of its operation through the introduction of changes or new activities. Equally important for improving the chances of success is the design of funding mechanisms for regional, subregional and bilateral activities. That issue is addressed in chapter IV, section C.

C. BASIC PRINCIPLES REGARDING POPULATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

11. The general objectives of population policies and programmes shall be pursued within a framework of absolute respect for the following basic principles:

i) The formulation and implementation of policies and programmes is a sovereign right of each nation.

ii) The rights of persons to determine their reproductive behaviour, place of residence and movement within national territories shall be fully respected. Strategies to achieve desirable demographic changes shall be based on freedom of decision with regard to individual behaviour and shall take due account of ethnocultural diversity.

iii) All elements of development strategy affect and are affected by population dynamics. For that reason, population policies and programmes should be multisectoral in nature and integrated into national socio-economic development policies at the global, sectoral and regional levels.

iv) Efforts shall be made to reduce the social inequity —and the demographic consequences thereof— found in the region as a whole and within many of the countries comprising it.

v) Actions shall always be aimed at increasing the life expectancy and improving the health of the population, independently of any other demographic consideration.

vi) Objectives and goals shall be consistent with the preservation and better use of national ecosystems. They shall therefore recognize that environmental degradation is a result of the irrationality of current development styles, as reflected in the predominance of inappropriate technologies and consumption patterns, mainly in the industrialized countries and the privileged minorities of the developing countries. It shall be recognized that population growth is not the principal determining factor in environmental degradation, since the interrelationships between the population and the environment depend on economic development strategies.

vii) Programmes and policies shall be designed and implemented on the basis of gender equity, so that they help to improve the status of women.

viii) The right of every individual to make free, responsible and informed decisions with respect to the number and spacing of his or her children shall be respected, regardless of each country's objectives concerning population growth.

ix) Programmes and policies shall be designed and implemented bearing in mind the protection of families, as well as the rights of their individual members.

12. Finally, it should be noted here that this Plan is intended to identify actions which will respond to the specific needs of Latin America and the Caribbean, in accordance with the global recommendations which may be adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994).

II. CURRENT LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SITUATION IN THE AREA OF POPULATION

13. This chapter offers a very brief summary of the population situation in the region and prospects for the future, within the context of economic and social development. A more detailed diagnosis, by subregions and groups of countries, including their specific characteristics and problems, can be found in other ECLAC documents, made available opportunely to the countries.[3]

A. POPULATION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT

14. The population of Latin America and the Caribbean nearly tripled between 1950 and 1993, reaching 466 million persons. A sharp decrease in death rates, together with persistently high fertility rates, accelerated growth rates up to the mid-1960s. During that period, the economy of the region, stimulated by the process of substitution industrialization, experienced sustained expansion. Together with changes in the productive spheres and increases in the gross domestic product, social structures were rearticulated, to the benefit of the middle and salaried strata. That social mobility, accompanied by higher levels of education, occurred concomitantly with a very rapid process of urbanization, which involved significant population movement from the countryside to the cities. These factors promoted the transformation of values, including those related to reproductive behaviour. Consequently, the desired family size gradually diminished, an aspiration made possible through family planning and other strategies. Lower birth rates have led to a gradual deceleration of average annual natural growth rates, from 2.7%, between 1950 and 1960, to 2% during the 1980s.

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[3] ECLAC/CELADE, Population, Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns (LC/G.1758/Rev.1-P; LC/DEM/G.131/Rev.1-Serie E, No. 37), Santiago, Chile, 1993, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.G.8, J. Chackiel and M. Villa, Latin America and the Caribbean: The dynamics of population and growth (DDR/1), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC/UNFPA/CELADE, paper presented at the Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Saint Lucia, 6-9 October 1992; B. Boland, Population dynamics and development in the Caribbean: with special emphasis on adolescent fertility, international migration and population policy and development planning (DDR/2), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC/UNFPA/CELADE, paper presented at the Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Saint Lucia, 6-9 October 1992.

15. Many of the economic and social advances achieved during the post-Second World War period in Latin America and the Caribbean have been overshadowed by the recession of the 1980s. Although the population grew at lower rates than in earlier decades, the real per capita product, in 1989, had fallen back to the level of 13 years previously. Diverse indicators point to the gravity of this recessive cycle, characterized by severe macroeconomic imbalances and setbacks in the social area. Due to the postponement of investments, institutional deterioration and the lack of alternative models of attention, the quality of essential services —such as health care and education— suffered serious reverses. Meanwhile, the recession meant higher unemployment and increased marginality in labour markets. Measures designed to soften the impact of the economic crisis had regressive effects on income distribution, their effects being felt most severely by workers and the middle strata. As a result, poverty increased; during the early 1980s, the rate of increase of the number of poor persons tripled the rate of increase of the total population. For the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, foreign debt and service payments constitute a heavy burden, inhibiting the allocation of resources for development and, especially, lowering the priority of social programmes to improve the quality of life of the population.

16. Although the demographic growth of the 1980s was less than that of earlier decades, as a result of the transfer of that higher previous growth, the cohorts of women in their fertile years increased and, in spite of lower fertility rates, the number of births continued to rise. Thus, the demand for social services also continued to rise; due to widespread failure in the supply of those services, service insufficiencies became very great. Analogously, the number of young persons entering their working years grew at higher rates than previously. The effects of demographic inertia, interrelated with recessive economic and social processes, have had negative repercussions on development and will continue to be felt in the coming years.

17. Given the diversity and depth of its impact, that "lost decade" strained the capacity of Governments to respond within that context of economic setbacks and their subsequent political difficulties; this relegated traditional planning schemes to secondary levels and weakened the position of the State as an agent of production. The severity of the crisis also exacerbated a series of social and economic imperfections endemic to the region. However, that harsh experience taught a number of lessons and, on that basis, the countries of the region have undertaken the search for new horizons. As part of that process, a strategic proposal for changing production patterns has taken shape, which, together with environmental sustainability, involves achieving greater social equity as an essential element, within a framework of democratic management styles. Population is an essential component of this proposal, both as the fundamental agent of the productive process and as recipient of the fruits of progress.

18. The sustained increase of the competitive capacity of Latin American and Caribbean economies is an essential condition for growth in today's world; this presupposes the systematic incorporation of technical progress into the productive process, creating more jobs and employing environmentally sustainable means. This task is unthinkable without significant investment in human resources; training of persons will increase the productivity of labour, generate genuine comparative advantages and increase the aggregate value of production. The qualitative improvement of human resources is a factor which will also help reduce poverty, by both favouring greater economic growth and offering greater opportunities for incorporation into the labour market for all sectors of the population, as long as, simultaneously, social policy to reduce the enduring inequalities in the societies of the region is strengthened. This presupposes assigning priority to quality of life, as well as to the training of human resources, which implies giving preferential treatment to education, health care and social security. In this sense, rapid demographic growth and high levels of poverty constitute disadvantages for countries when they attempt to increase the level of training and productivity of the labour force.

19. A symptom of the social vulnerability imposed by the profound inequalities within countries —and which have impeded the extension of the benefits of development to large sectors of the population— has been the worsening of poverty during the 1980s. From the demographic point of view, those inequalities are reflected in substantial differences in morbi-mortality rates (especially maternal-infant rates), territorial mobility patterns and fertility rates between different social sectors, ethnic groups and geographic zones. Particularly striking is the lack of family planning programmes based on principles of equal access to sex education and reproductive health services. Undoubtedly, the satisfaction of those demands, and of other social needs, would have a positive impact on the development of human resources. The urgent need to overcome the historical limitations reflected in this type of inequality transforms the issue of equity into one of the central elements of the relationship between population and development. Thus, the principal tasks involve minimizing poverty, developing the talents which potentially exist in all social groups and arbitrating the means to ensure that the concentration of the fruits of progress does not restrict the true liberty of present and future generations. The modalities of the process of change in demographic behaviour are inseparable from initiatives to achieve growing social equity; also in line with this proposal are the means to encourage voluntary and informed decisions with regard to family size or place of residence within each country.

B. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION AND TRENDS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

20. Thus, the situation and anticipated trends of population dynamics are key elements for all development strategies which seek to integrate changing production patterns and the achievement of greater social equity. As noted above, the marked decrease in fertility rates (from 6 to 3.4 children per woman) is one of the most pronounced changes in Latin American and Caribbean demographics in the last 30 years, and lowered the natural growth rate to 2% during the 1980s; a rate of 1.7% is projected for the 1990s. In the case of the Caribbean countries, these rates are even lower because of the impact of international migration. Progress has also been made with respect to death rates, reflected in increased life expectancy at birth, from 57 to 69 years; meanwhile, infant mortality rates have fallen from 127 per thousand, in the early 1950s, to 54 per thousand, in the late 1980s. Progress in the area of death rates —associated with interaction between the processes of demographic and epidemiologic transition— should not mask the persistence of certain lags. Thus, maternal death rates have remained high, more than 12 times higher than those of developed countries; the persistence and resurgence of infectious diseases and the rapid spread of AIDS are also current problems in the region.

21. These demographic trends, especially those related to fertility, are modifying the age structure of the population and thereby accentuating the ageing process, the short-term effects of which mean an increase of the population in the productive and reproductive years, in absolute and relative terms. Currently, the number of persons seeking to enter the labour force is growing sharply, with special impact on the younger age groups with their high unemployment rates. Age structure changes in many countries also imply new challenges in the areas of health care, employment and social security. The population over 60 years old, some 31 million persons in 1990, will triple by the year 2025, when that group will constitute 14% of the total number of inhabitants of the region; that rapid growth will impose new demands, unknown to date in most countries, especially on health care and social security systems. The impact of the progressive ageing of the population is especially notable in countries in the later stages of demographic transition, particularly in the Caribbean subregion and other relatively small countries,

in which this demographic process combines with the emigration of the younger population and, in many cases, the return of migrants in their retirement years.

22. Although the region as a whole is in full demographic transition, that generalization is not equally valid for all countries. There are sharp contrasts between those in which women bear an average of nearly six children and others in which they have fewer than two; in some, as well, life expectancy is less than 60 years, while in others it is around 75. Those differences mean that in some countries the population grows at rates of around 3% annually, and, in others, the growth rate is less than 1%. Box 1, together with diagram 1 and the tables in the annex, illustrate that heterogeneity. Similar and even greater disparities emerge from comparisons among the geographic zones, social or ethnic groups within countries; these are the product of the lack of social equity, which hinders broad and non-discriminatory access to essential services, such as education, health care, housing and social security.

23. The mid- and long-term projections of those trends reveal that the rhythm of growth will continue to decrease. In most countries, the average annual growth rate of around 2% will fall to around 1% by 2010, and will be even lower by 2025. According to these projections, the population of Latin America and the Caribbean will increase by 60% between 1990 and 2025, rising to some 700 million persons. As a hypothesis, it has been calculated that the region could arrive at a combination of fertility and mortality such that, on average, each woman would have around two children by around 2020, and that, of them, at least one daughter would replace her in her reproductive function; if that happens, the growth rate would be zero and, therefore, the population would be stable and would experience few subsequent changes. However, in light of the region's still young age distribution, that situation may only prevail after 2050, with a regional population of around 800 million persons. It should be noted that in the Caribbean, replacement will be reached around 2005.

24. As a result of the supposed convergence of fertility rates towards replacement levels, relative age distributions should be characterized by a trend towards an ever-older population; by the middle of the twenty first century, those younger than 15 years of age will represent around 20% of the total population in most countries, although it is necessary to recall that, at the present time, some countries have populations in which more than 40% of the total are minors. As a result of the expected changes in age structures, the dependence ratio will tend to decrease initially —due to lower percentages of children— only to subsequently rise again —as the percentage of the elderly increases; thus, that indicator will decline from 70 persons in their inactive years for every 100 active persons, in the region as a whole, to around 50% in the year 2010, although some countries will still have ratios similar to current regional averages. As fertility trends and age structure alterations converge, the current number of births in many countries is reaching historical maximums and will decline in the future, with subsequent effects on the demand for maternal-child health care and other childhood-related services; however, in countries which have only recently entered into the process of demographic transition, this will only occur in 20 or 30 years. Generally, changes in demographic components, in age structures and in other related factors —such as epidemiological profiles—, make it possible to argue that, in the short and medium terms, diverse demands will coexist, with a significant increase in the numbers of children and of persons in their middle years, to which a larger elderly population will be added.

25. International population movements, basically among the countries of the hemisphere, are increasing, as a result of the adjustment process occurring within the region and the disparities between developing and developed countries; this trend is fostered as well by the increasing spread of communications and transportation. Apart from the traditional movement of persons with every level of training in search of improved economic conditions, that mobility includes a numerous contingent of

Box 1

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: THE SITUATION IN COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO THE STAGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, 1985-1990

The basic characteristics of population dynamics in Latin America and the Caribbean can be described in terms of the concept of demographic transition, which refers to the evolution from high to low fertility and mortality levels, through stages. This process occurs at different rhythms and in different modalities in the diverse countries of the region, and in different ways within social groups and spatial units. In order to systematize the effects of the significant trends in gross national birth and death rates within the region, four types of situation have been identified for the 1985-1990 five year period.

The first group of countries, in incipient demographic transition, is characterized by generalized poverty, precarious access to social services and a mainly rural population; in these circumstances, birth and death rates remain high, with a high percentage of children and youth, implying high reproductive potential. Bolivia and Haiti are in this group, with average annual rates of natural growth on the order of 2.5%.

The second group, of moderate transition and still low urbanization, have higher rates of natural growth (around 3%), produced by declining death rates and high and sustained birth rates. Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Paraguay are in this group. Although these countries have made progress in reducing death rates, making the population younger and increasing dependence ratios, that progress has not reached vast sectors of the rural population nor those below the poverty line; given their high percentages of children and youth, it is likely that, in the short term, their birth rates will continue to be high.

Three fourths of the population of the region lives in predominantly urban countries, in full demographic transition, as can be observed in their declining birth rates and a death rate which, by virtue of health campaigns applied to a young age structure (derived from decreasing fertility rates) and less exposed to the risk of death, has declined considerably. Natural average growth is around 2% annually in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

Finally, the group in advanced transition is constituted by some of the most urbanized countries, with average annual rates of natural growth around 1%, arising from comparatively low birth and moderate or low death rates; some of those countries, in which the decline in birth rates occurred long ago, are characterized by the ageing of their age structures. Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Chile, Cuba, Guadaloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico and Uruguay belong to this group.

Source: J. Chackiel and M. Villa, Latin America and the Caribbean: The dynamics of population and growth (DDR/1), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC/UNFPA/CELADE, paper presented at the Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Saint Lucia, 6-9 October 1992; B. Boland, Population dynamics and development in the Caribbean (DDR/2), ECLAC/UNFPA/ CELADE, reference document prepared for the same meeting.

refugees and persons displaced by sociopolitical conflict and of those who are returning to their countries of origin, motivated by current democratization and pacification processes. It has frequently been noted that the situation of migrants is worse than that of those who are native to the destination countries, involving, at times, the violation of the migrants' basic human rights. In this area, the design of measures at the national level are insufficient. Rather, it is necessary to join forces in order to achieve international consensus with respect to appropriate attention for migrants, especially in light of the opportunities created by processes of regional integration. International migration is a cause of particular concern in

the Caribbean subregion, because, given that those countries are small in size and have small populations, population exchanges accentuate their vulnerability to external economic factors. In particular, international mobility has repercussions on the sex, age and occupational structures of the population and on the environment and, therefore, places the development of those countries in jeopardy.

26. To these trends, it is necessary to add the intense processes of urbanization and metropolization through which the region, still predominately rural in 1950, has currently come to have 71% of its inhabitants living in urban areas, largely due to strong internal migratory currents. Towards the year 2000, those living in urban areas will represent 75% of the total population. The region, with less than 10% of the total world population, contains four of the ten largest cities in the world. However, that situation is not homogeneous, given that, in some countries, the rural population still represents more than 60% of the total population. At the same time, the growing diversity in internal migratory flows, including those among urban systems and among rural zones, should be noted. It has also been observed that the prevalent models of development have favoured the territorial concentration of economic activities and of population, with subsequent impact on integral economic development and social and regional equity. Continually improved training of human resources, the provision of services which tend to improve the quality of life in all regions of countries, together with the decentralization of management and investment processes, should be central components of social equity and changing production pattern strategies.

27. Another phenomenon which is emerging with force and is a cause of concern in some countries of the region is the mobility of persons displaced for various reasons, although the common factor seems to be domestic conflict of one kind or another. The situation of those persons, women in particular, is different from that of refugees, because the fact that they remain within the national territory makes them ineligible for the services of specialized organizations, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Moreover, their destinations and conditions are extremely heterogeneous and their demands are complex, making them highly vulnerable groups, in both urban and rural contexts.

28. Conflictive situations in the relation between demographic trends, development and the environment —in urban and rural ecosystems— have been observed. Especially important are the problems of the large metropolis, which lacks basic services —water, sewage, waste collection— and suffers water and atmospheric contamination —produced by the lack of technologies to control that contamination and insufficient investment in infrastructure, among other factors. In rural zones, deforestation and soil degradation in areas recently incorporated into agricultural use and in small-plot farm zones —where farmers are obliged to over-exploit their land— are also noteworthy. The relationships between the demographic situation and natural resources in the small island countries of the Caribbean, as well as their capacity to organize and mobilize those resources to face the problems arising from those relationships, merit special attention. In those conditions, a strategy of sustainable development which implies sustained economic growth based on changing production patterns, in coherence with social policies (employment, population, health care and education) which will ensure social equity and provide special attention for the protection of the environment, is called for.

29. A particularly unacceptable expression of the lack of equity in the region is that which affects women. From the perspective of population, that situation is most notable in the difficulty women face in the exercise of their reproductive rights, that is, in the lack of access —and of options— with respect to the use of contraceptive methods. The fact of having to assume major responsibility for family planning, and for educating and raising the children and domestic tasks, together with the risk implied

by the high illness and death rates associated with pregnancy and childbirth, are excessive burdens. And, given the impact on their future, the situation which affects adolescent women, who lack adequate sex education, family life education and access to contraceptives, is especially serious, in so far as they are exposed to unwanted pregnancies, the risks of clandestine abortions and the multiple restrictions which society imposes on the legitimacy of their descendants. Another cause of concern is the prevalence of pregnancies among adolescent women particularly in the Caribbean countries. Moreover, a high and growing proportion of women (reaching an average of 40% in some countries) are fulfilling the role of head of household, often characterized by social vulnerability and precarious economic conditions. In these so profoundly inequitable conditions, society, as a whole, must move towards adopting measures which will guarantee equal treatment for men and women. Every violation of equity based on sex distinctions in the areas of education and labour must be avoided. Priority must also be given to the solution of the problems faced by displaced and refugee women. Finally, necessary and sufficient measures to eradicate the violence to which women in general are subject must be adopted.

30. The integration of population factors into development strategies, has been and will continue to be particularly relevant. In spite of progress in this regard, deficiencies are still evident: the need for greater precision with respect to the type and direction of the interaction between demographic variables and those of socio-economic development; the absence of technical training to include population issues in economic and social policy; the lack of political will and commitment to establish institutional mechanisms which would allow population to be considered as an endogenous component of development strategies; and the imbalance between the objectives of socio-demographic policy and the impact of economic policy, strategies and programmes. The State plays an important role in the harmonization of the relationship between population and development. International cooperation, both financial and technical, has been important in the promotion, formulation and execution of population policies and programmes. However, a notable disproportion between needs and available resources persists, a disparity which has become more pronounced in recent years. Intraregional and interregional cooperation is an effective instrument for responding to the common needs of several countries and for complementing and strengthening national activities.

C. ACHIEVEMENTS AND OBSTACLES IN THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND EXECUTION OF POPULATION POLICY

Progress and limitations

31. The countries of the region display heterogeneous behaviour with regard to policy definition in the area of population issues. Some have adopted measures geared to affect certain demographic variables and their causes, while others have formulated explicit global policies. However, many of the latter have faced difficulties in their efforts to move beyond the design stage and implement the desired measures. In contrast, certain sectoral initiatives, even in the absence of global population policy, seem to have been more successful, as is illustrated by the significant force of family planning and reproductive health programmes or in maternal-child health care (which also include family planning components), usually promoted by the Health Ministries. Moreover, progress has been made in the incorporation of demographic variables into economic and social development policy and programmes.

32. In short, it can be stated that progress has been made in the last 20 years, even though sufficiently grievous deficiencies persist to make population issues a serious challenge for the countries of Latin

America and the Caribbean. In fact, this is an area in which the exchange of experiences, training, technical assistance and horizontal cooperation should play a basic role within the region. For this reason, and as a first attempt at a diagnosis, this section identifies some of the many obstacles faced in the effort to design and implement population policy.

33. One of the main difficulties is the persistence, in some countries, of ideological polemics with regard to appropriate measures to be taken in pursuit of population objectives, especially those designed to lower fertility rates. Those controversies become more extreme when the meaning of population policy is confused with action limited to control of births. That erroneous perception —the basis of false dilemmas— arises from the lack of understanding of the value of population policies to economic and social development; there is a tendency to not recognize the usefulness of the measures provided for in that policy as supportive elements for achieving specific development goals, especially when those policies are formulated within the broader framework of social policy. Diverse factors explain that lack of understanding, although efforts to increase sensitivity to socio-demographic issues in opinion-makers, public-sector leaders and society in general have been deficient.

34. The deficiencies of campaigns geared to generate social awareness of population and development issues have produced a lack of effective political will in this regard. Strictly speaking, technical efforts have been made which, given these restrictions and certain difficulties in articulating the relevant proposals within political discourse, have not taken shape in operational strategies. Thus, it is understandable that, in many cases, it has not been possible to engage diverse social sectors in concerted action on the basis of shared objectives with regard to population. To the contrary, the risk of facing the adverse reaction of groups with influence on public opinion has frustrated certain initiatives, before they were submitted to open debate.

35. The socio-political voids reflected in this situation also give rise to new difficulties when it comes to establishing mechanisms to implement population policy, the execution of which implies distributing responsibilities among diverse institutions, both in the public and private sectors and in organized civil society. Within that context, it is nearly impossible to implement the necessary strategies of community participation within the mechanisms responsible for the formulation, execution and evaluation of action. Undoubtedly, when population policy is affected by institutional fragility, it is understandable that finance sources dry up and, for the same reason, that those initiatives remain as relatively abstract announcements of intentions. In the absence of solid institutional commitment and adequate budgets, the vicissitudes of personnel stability lead to the loss of qualified human resources.

36. Knowledge about the complex interactions between population and development has been found insufficient for practical application. This is clear in topics involving sociocultural factors and is an obstacle worth mentioning. The voids with respect to what is known about demographic behaviour and its economic and social implications make it difficult to identify intermediary factors. If these factors were understood, they could be used for direct intervention to achieve changes which are coherent with the desired objectives. The missing knowledge restricts the design of effective measures and instruments which could also form part of other economic and social policies. Those voids are even more evident in the face of new trends in the development model being chosen by countries and with regard to which population policy could be highly functional. These observations are particularly relevant with respect to objectives designed to improve the quality of human resources, to increase the productivity of the labour force and advance towards higher levels of social equity. Overcoming these limitations implies fluid communication among researchers and technicians dedicated to planning in demographics and, in the broadest sense, investment in human resources.

37. The execution of policy already formulated also faces obstacles. In some cases, the scant precision of objectives —particularly in terms of their social, temporal and territorial implications— has made their implementation in operational programmes difficult. In this sense, one of the problems faced in the formulation and execution of population policy is the visualization of short- and mid-term demographic scenarios, a task which becomes even more complex when it comes to defining initiatives for specific population groups or with respect to sub-national spaces. While diverse types of social demands are notable for their urgency, the horizons involved in population policy cover relatively long periods of time. That temporal dissonance, often aggravated by the commitments which each Government must fulfil during its relatively brief tenure in office, interferes with the necessary continuity of actions designed to achieve certain demographic objectives or goals. In the same way, the concerns and interests of the local community have not always been adequately represented in the definition of priorities, generating conflict between the tendency to centralize coordination and the demands of decentralized execution.

38. Many countries have encountered serious limitations in the evaluation of population policy. Political voids, inadequate campaigns to generate sensitivity, personnel mobility, gaps in knowledge, the scarcity of available resources and operational rigidities work together to make evaluation extremely difficult. To this is added the lack of expeditious and adequate instruments and the inability of information sources to supply up-to-date and continuous data.

Experience to date

39. In spite of the diversity of the obstacles encountered, the countries of the region have acquired broad experience in terms of institutional mechanisms for generating population policy and programmes. Although they have varied over time, the institutional mechanisms adopted can be classified in three categories: a) establishment of national population councils; b) formation of working groups for the specific purpose of formulating population policy; and c) creation of population units within national ministries for development planning.

40. Most countries have established entities of the first type, that is, multisectoral councils or commissions, in which representatives of diverse ministries and public-sector entities participate. In spite of their official status, many have functioned only minimally or simply not at all. Others, which functioned normally at first, later lost their inertia and have been reorganized or replaced by some other institutional modality. In contrast, in countries in which national councils had genuine and solid political support from the beginning, they have persisted, not only in their concern for the diverse dimensions of population dynamics, but in the articulation of solid networks of institutional support, which has enabled them to overcome the difficulties inherent to changes in government. Finally, those councils in other countries emerged after some other entity, responsible for research and diagnosis of demographic dynamics or for implementing specific population activities, was assigned higher rank among governmental institutions.

41. The constitution of those population councils has been diverse from country to country. In some, their members were professionals who, while outstanding in their fields, were relatively distant from the spheres of political decision and, for that reason, all their recommendations were necessarily consulted with higher authorities in the institutions they represented. On the other extreme were councils which, being constituted by the ministers themselves or their immediate representatives, were difficult to convene for working meetings, a restriction even more notable when population dynamics did not figure among the political issues assigned highest priority. Furthermore, it should be noted that in some countries the

councils have functioned only in reaction to certain immediate situations, given that there is no defined and systematic work plan.

42. Among countries which have created ad hoc groups to address population issues, some of the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean are the most notable example. During the 1980s, they established population task forces made up of representatives of various ministries and dedicated to performing diagnostic studies in support of the formulation of population policy and of recommendations for the incorporation of demographic variables into governmental plans and programmes. It should be noted that more than half of those working groups fulfilled their mandates by formulating the required policy measures; the others did not fulfil their objectives and remain inactive.

43. Finally, some countries of the region have assigned the task of formulating population policy to the national organization responsible for development planning. This task has been linked to the activities of certain mechanisms responsible for incorporating demographic variables into development planning at every level (global, regional, sectoral). In some cases, it was not possible to create a division to deal with these matters; in others, the decision was taken to create a new division, following on experiments with sectoral organizations responsible for a specific aspect of population policy or after verifying the poor performance of the interministerial population councils created previously. Some of these units have performed research and studies of population and its relationship with other aspects of development. Of these, some even managed to propose population policy guidelines, while others have worked to disseminate and promote population activities.

44. These three categories do not exhaust the range of institutional mechanisms within the region; nor are they mutually exclusive. Moreover, given that the task of executing population policy is not always a function of the organization responsible for formulating it, it is highly probable that, at least in theory, that responsibility is lodged in a spectrum of institutions. As well, the fact that a country has developed explicit population policy does not absolve it from constant efforts to incorporate demographic variables into development policy and programmes, a task also faced by countries which do not have that general policy. As can be observed throughout the region, that last factor is fairly commonplace and merits consideration as a specific issue in this section.

The incorporation of demographic variables into policies and programmes

45. The experience of population units within national development planning organizations reveals both progress and limitations. In some cases, the purpose of that incorporation remains unclear, given the tendency to consider population as a specific social sector and ignore its essentially multisectoral nature; in others, not limited by that criterion, operational and methodological problems have arisen. Where large-scale demo-economic models have been employed, results have been scant, owing both to the restrictions inherent in that type of approach —such as the inability to establish endogenous relationships between the variables identified, thus hindering analysis of eventual repercussions of different strategic options—, and to external factors (lack of adequate information, of qualified personnel, infrastructural deficiencies for data computation and processing). Most countries have obtained better results with smaller-scale models, which focus on specific problems and sectors and lend themselves to the analysis of the effects of demographic trends on the needs of diverse social services at the national and sub-national levels; however, the lack of trained personnel and of timely, reliable, accurate and disaggregated statistics is an obstacle for the optimum exploitation of that type of methodology.

46. In spite of these restrictions, efforts to incorporate demographic variables more effectively into development policy and programmes are a valuable factor in the difficult process of formulating and executing explicit population policies. Progress along those lines will establish more solid foundations for the measures to be implemented both in technical terms and with regard to their sociopolitical legitimacy, making it possible to overcome certain simplistic appreciations with respect to some social problems. The models are also highly functional for resource programming, especially in so far as their application addresses the new challenges and opportunities emerging from the recently developed strategies for focusing and decentralizing public action. For all of these reasons, Governments deem it necessary to increase the dissemination and training in the use of instruments which will enable greater integration of population factors into their policies and programmes.

Final reflections on institutional mechanisms

47. The examination of the institutional arrangements adopted by countries to deal with population issues reveals that, even with the diversity of their specific modalities, they face common problems which hinder optimum performance. In general, since political authorities assign higher priority to economic policy or specific social measures, demographic dynamics may be relegated to secondary levels of concern, thus eliminating the possibility to employ knowledge of the interrelationships between those dynamics and the mid- and long-term evolution of the economy and society. That short-term perspective has often led the authorities to abandon population policy already formulated and to commit the error of believing that population issues are only individual and family concerns, not relevant to society as a whole. That perspective has also led Governments to neglect the needs of their own population organizations in allocating resources; this, in turn, hinders effective coordination among the entities responsible for those programmes which could lead to the success of population policy.

48. Some countries have attempted to reformulate their operational modalities, strengthening ties among technical, scientific and political entities, in an effort to overcome the scant institutional development of their national population organizations. Undoubtedly, the success of population policy depends, to a large extent, on the solidity of its scientific and technical base, which implies the constant provision of knowledge to inform decisions, identify operational instruments, design programmes and projects linked to economic and social policy, and to specify follow-up and evaluation mechanisms. To that end, technical population committees —with the rank of inter-ministerial commissions, in some cases— and divisions within a ministry (often the planning ministry) have been formed. Although several entities have performed demographic research and studies, their operational projection has been slight, with the result that they are usually considered to be of mainly academic interest.

49. In spite of efforts at functional articulation, substantial institutional improvements are not evident. In fact, the deficiencies noted are not only apparent in terms of low budgets —which leads to scarcity and frequent rotation of personnel trained in population and development issues—, but have also affected their true areas of competence. Thus, when the task of formulating population policy has been assigned to national planning organizations, the technical mechanisms have tended to be predominant; given the resulting atmosphere of relative autonomy, their proposals have, in some cases, fallen into a political void. The loss of relative weight which planning systems have suffered since the 1980s has only aggravated the situation. When the responsibility for formulating population policy has been assigned to a multisectoral organization, problems of coordination among institutions have worsened, except when design tasks were assigned to a State secretariat, in which case there is the danger of sectoral bias.

Finally, some countries have attempted to mitigate the lack of institutional articulation by creating parliamentary commissions on population and development, the evaluation of which is, as yet, premature.

50. The adequate articulation of institutional mechanisms is undoubtedly an essential requisite for the success of population policy. The region has accumulated valuable and relatively broad experience and the lessons taught by previous experience constitute a foundation on which it is necessary to continue to build. Efforts must also be made to advance on several fronts, including institutional organizations as such, modalities for coordination and work methodologies, as well as diverse activities —such as the analysis and exchange of experiences, training and applied research— in order to guarantee solid progress in the future.

D. THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS FRAME OF REFERENCE

51. The World Population Plan of Action (WPPA) (Bucharest, 1974), revised in Mexico City in 1984, is the basic antecedent for this Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development. Since then, and in a large number of international conferences and forums, the countries of the region have adopted new agreements and recommendations with regard to population, which are also antecedents of this Regional Plan of Action.[4] This section refers to the agreements most closely related to the issues around which the objectives and goals of this Plan are articulated, and which, in turn, derive basically from the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, approved in the Regional Conference on those issues (Mexico City, May 1993). That Consensus, is the basic framework within which this Plan is inscribed. When the time comes, the Plan will be adjusted in accordance with the agreements to be adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994).

52. On diverse occasions, the countries of the region have renewed their firm commitment to give special attention to the *environment* in their efforts to integrate population into the development process systematically. There was consensus in the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, 1984) that an integrated approach was necessary for the formulation of development policy, plans and programmes, which would take into account the interrelationships among population, resources, the environment and development. That decision was ratified, more recently, in the International Forums on Population Policies in Development Planning (Mexico City, 1987) and on Population in the Twenty-first Century (Amsterdam, 1989), as well as very especially in Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). Analogously, matters concerning the institutionalization of social and population policies, the stimulation of training, information and research on issues related to population, development and the environment have been underscored in a series of international meetings, conferences and forums.

53. The *search for gender equity* in population policy emerged as a clear commitment in the International Conference on Population (Mexico City, 1984) and in the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace

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[4] Only those meetings held since 1984, in which agreements directly related to the issues dealt with in this Regional Plan of Action were adopted, are considered in this section. The references do not attempt to summarize the content of those agreements, but only allude to issues treated in them.

(Nairobi, 1985). That principle was ratified in the International Conference on Better Health for Women and Children through Family Planning (Nairobi, 1987) and in the International Forums on population policy mentioned above (Mexico, 1987, and Amsterdam, 1989). At the regional level, gender equality is a precept of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, adopted in 1977, with important subsequent contributions, such as those achieved in the regional conference held at Mexico City in 1983 and in the conferences on that issue held every three years. Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) also contains proposals in this regard.

54. In turn, *international migration* has been considered in many international meetings and recognition of the importance of that issue has grown throughout the region, in light of the impact of economic and social changes and initiatives to integrate markets. The WPPA recommendations, which promote the adoption of measures to guarantee the rights of migrants and their families, as well as those of refugees and displaced persons, have been reaffirmed in those meetings. The new International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families should be added to the agreements already approved. In this regard, the conclusions of the Regional Seminar on Migration Policies, Integration and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Challenges and Opportunities of the Present Decade (Punta del Este, 1993), are significant.

55. As for *family health, well-being and planning*, the WPPA contains important recommendations, which have been supported in the International Forums on Population Policies (Mexico, 1987, and Amsterdam, 1989). A series of goals and commitments to action, approved by Governments, is reflected in the strategy of the Pan American Health Organization, which has proposed to ensure health for all by the year 2000. The situation of *children*, intimately related to family well-being, has been the subject of a number of international agreements, among which the World Summit for Children (New York, 1990) is outstanding. Adolescents also constitute a group which has caused serious concern, above all in light of the need to provide reproductive health care and avoid early pregnancies (Amsterdam, 1989).

56. The international community has assigned ever higher priority to the issue of *social development*, as can be observed in the agendas of recent meetings and of those to be held in the coming years. The agreements which may be adopted in those meetings will certainly influence the matters referred to in this Regional Plan of Action. Among those meetings, the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993), especially its recommendations on the full and free participation of *indigenous populations* in all aspects of society; the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados, 1994); the World Summit on Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995); the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995); and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II; Turkey, 1996) should be mentioned.

57. The WPPA contains numerous recommendations with regard to *population age structure*, and its repercussions. Reference to concern for children and adolescents was made above. As a result of the changes produced by demographic transition, the *elderly* population is growing rapidly in many countries of the region, the implications of which are a matter of growing concern. The recommendations adopted in consultative meetings (Washington, 1988 and 1992) and in the Consensus on Policies for the Care of the Elderly in Latin America (Santiago, Chile, 1992) should be added to those of the WPPA on the adoption of measures to ensure the well-being and security of the elderly, especially women.

58. As well, *population distribution, internal migration and urbanization* have been examined in diverse conferences. Again, the WPPA and the Amsterdam Forum (1989) contain important recommendations in this regard. Diverse meetings on matters related to the environment have also dealt with these issues.

59. In relation to the family, the countries of the region agreed, at the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the International Year of the Family, held at Cartagena, Colombia, in 1993, to promote policies, adopt legal provisions and allocate resources for the protection of the family.

III. OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

60. On the basis of the examination of the demographic and socio-economic changes in Latin America and the Caribbean and the accumulated experience in the application of population policy and programmes over the last 20 years, the consensus achieved by the countries of the region in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development (Mexico City, 1993) and the international agreements on those issues, the countries of the region have proposed an interrelated set of objectives which, grouped in seven sections, are presented below.

A. POPULATION, DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

61. General objective: To harmonize the mutual relationships among population dynamics, the environment and social and economic development.

62. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) To broaden the consideration of trends in demographic variables in sectoral and regional policies and ensure the coherent integration of population and environment policies into economic and social development strategies.

ii) To adopt environmentally sustainable development strategies which assign adequate priority to social programmes and policies, including those related to population and the alleviation of poverty.

iii) To give priority attention to the search for coherence between population policies and those related to the environment.

iv) To guarantee that economic development programmes and strategies take into account their impact on the mobility and territorial distribution of the population, and to adopt measures to face present and future problems derived from these phenomena, particularly those related to the environment.

v) To undertake in-depth studies of the linkages between population and the environment which will serve as the basis for the formulation of development strategies, with special attention to social equity and resource use and taking into account the knowledge of the autochthonous populations with regard to their relationship with nature.

vi) To reinforce and broaden, at all levels, educational and communications programmes on the preservation of the environment and its relationships to productive activities, consumption patterns and population dynamics, through communications and formal and informal educational programmes.

vii) To consider mid- and long-term changes in population age structures in the formulation of social policies (health care and social security, employment, education and housing), in order to guarantee attention for faster growing and more vulnerable age groups.

viii) To organize training and employment programmes which, considering the high rates of incorporation into the active years and the need to promote equality of opportunity, will assign primary importance to youth, in order to guarantee improved workforce productivity and authentic competitive capacity for the economies of the region.

ix) To promote social participation and integration and ensure adequate attention, in the areas of health care and social security, for the elderly, whose number and relative weight will increase, given the demographic changes observed in the region.

x) To reinforce the progress made in the incorporation of reproductive features in health programmes, especially family planning programmes. To advance, as well, in the area of education and other social policies which support the objectives pursued by each country with regard to population matters.

B. GENDER EQUITY

63. General objective: To contribute to improving women's status and position in society, promoting favourable changes in the relations between men and women, through the integration of action to that end in the area of population policy and programmes.[5]

64. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) To guarantee equal job opportunities with equitable remuneration; combat discrimination against women in the legal, labour, social and political fields; promote the recognition and appreciation of women's work in all areas; and facilitate women's access to credit and the ownership of goods.

ii) To guarantee adequate working conditions to protect the health of women and their children. To reinforce day care infrastructure to cover self employed and salaried sectors of workers for whom that service is not available.

iii) To take the necessary initiatives to promote equity in education, especially those which promote the incorporation and permanence of women in the middle and higher levels of the educational system.

iv) To contribute to the improvement of health care for women, especially in the area of reproductive health, including family life and sex education, family planning, care during pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium, as well as the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. To focus those measures especially on adolescents.

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[5] This Plan takes as its own the objectives identified in the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development of 1977 and the new proposals made in the conferences on that issue held every three years.

v) To actively incorporate men into family planning programmes and family life education, in order to promote the shared responsibility of men and women in reproduction and reproductive health. Particularly, to promote the further development of contraceptive methods for men.

vi) To promote sex education activities from the gender perspective, focused mainly on adolescents, with the participation of parents and teachers.

vii) To incorporate the gender perspective into the design of study plans for different educational levels, both formal and informal, in order to bring about positive changes in attitudes, values and beliefs about sexuality and the roles to be played by men and women within domestic units.

viii) To promote educational communication on issues related to gender equity, in order to eliminate social stereotypes which presuppose women's inferiority, promoting shared responsibility between women and men for domestic labour, the education and raising of the children and family planning.

ix) To develop action geared to generate sensitivity in the owners and producers of the mass media and in opinion leaders with respect to the representation of masculine and feminine role models, the family, relationships within the couple and sexuality, in order to promote gender equity.

x) To promote and communicate legislative advances to eliminate inequities and discrimination against women with respect to their social and political rights, especially in the areas of reproduction and family life, and to establish adequate mechanisms for the effective exercise of those rights.

xi) To encourage the active participation of diverse social sectors in the design and implementation of population programmes which take into account the gender perspective and to reinforce or create adequate mechanisms to ensure the continuity and follow-up of those programmes and to evaluate their short- and mid-term impact.

xii) To take into account in the design of social and population policies the modalities of women's migration, as well as its repercussions, and of men's migration on the social condition of women, particularly in the configuration of domestic units and the way in which the woman's role in the development of life strategies is affected by the absence of the man.

C. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, FAMILY PLANNING AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

65. General objective: To strengthen the family. To improve the health of the population, particularly reproductive health, and guarantee the right of persons to decide, in free and informed fashion, the number and spacing of their children.

66. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) Strengthen the institution of the family, protecting its role in the socialization of future generations and ensuring that, within the family itself, shared ethical values are communicated and

children are prepared for daily life. To this end, it is necessary to take into account the existence of diverse types of family, as well as the changes which occur in it.

ii) Develop programmes targeting the family to ensure that attitudes are acquired within the family that are consistent with environmental preservation, so that families contribute to development while enjoying its benefits.

iii) Harmonize economic adjustment measures with social processes that promote the stability of families and the performance of their functions.

iv) Ensure that legislation on the family incorporates conciliation mechanisms and laws designed to prevent violence, discrimination and exploitation of members of the family group.

v) Develop programmes that make it possible to reduce the incidence of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual abuse.

vi) Incorporate the family dimension into the formulation of public policies, in order to ensure the viability of families and meet their basic needs, guaranteeing due respect for the ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic characteristics of families.

vii) Assign the highest political priority and allocate resources to the search for a more equitable distribution of family health care services, especially those related to maternal and child health and reproductive health, in order to respond to the needs of groups which, given their geographical location or social condition, do not yet have access to those services.

viii) Promote and consolidate programmes of formal and informal education and information services on responsible parenting, family life and sexuality.

ix) Give priority to child care, reinforcing prevention and primary health care services. Resources should be directed, first, to the least protected population.

x) Incorporate into reproductive health care services, population education and family planning programmes, measures which will help prevent sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS; and to ensure adequate medical attention and non-discriminatory treatment for the ill. To study the impact of the increase of HIV/AIDS and of the measures for combating it on death rates and the sexual and reproductive behaviour of the population.

xi) Offer access to services for risk-free maternity, particularly those related to sex education, care during pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium, and family planning. Those services should offer high quality, integral attention, taking into account the sociocultural identity of the users and assigning priority to the most vulnerable population groups.

xii) Lower the incidence of abortions and attendant complications by increasing the coverage and quality of family planning, reproductive health and sex education programmes.

xiii) Design and adopt models of integral reproductive health care for adolescents, including educational components on population and family planning, adequate to their sociocultural context. To reexamine regulations which restrict that population segment's access to contraceptives.

xiv) Implement programmes which will help reduce the incidence of adolescent pregnancy and its psychosocial consequences and will promote continuation of the mothers' educational process and create improved conditions for their insertion into the labour market and society as a whole.

xv) Develop information, educational and communications strategies in order to achieve the egalitarian participation of men and women in decisions related to family planning. Likewise, to promote the education of men in the area of responsible parenthood and the further development of contraceptives which they can use.

xvi) Improve the quality of family planning services through the following measures: broadening the spectrum of contraceptive options and information about their characteristics, reinforcing the technical competence of those who operate those services, improving the interpersonal relationship with users and perfecting their structures and organization. In particular, to reinforce the advisory mechanisms which inform potential users of sterilization about the existence of other contraceptive methods and about the consequences of opting for a permanent method.

xvii) Support biomedical research to develop safer, less costly contraceptives and encourage their production locally; to develop more effective procedures to detect the moment of ovulation and seek mechanisms to promote the transmission of relevant knowledge in this regard to population groups which prefer methods based on periodic abstinence.

xviii) Promote access to services for the treatment of infertility and those for assisted fertility, within the framework of internationally established ethical principles and norms, so that couples can have the number of children they desire.

xix) Consider that, although for programmatic purposes it may be convenient to establish goals in terms of number of users or of fertility rates, that should not interfere with the exercise of individual liberties. The entities which operate those services should avoid fixing quotas for contraceptive users.

67. Goals for the year 2000:[6] The following goals are based on already adopted agreements, as indicated in each case:

i) To reduce by a third the death rate among children younger than one year and those under five —or to 50 and 70 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively, if that is a lower rate—, using 1990 values as the point of reference (UNICEF, World Summit for Children).

ii) To attain a life expectancy of 70 years or, at least, to gain eight years with respect to the 1990 value. Countries with low death rates should continue efforts to improve health services to reduce death rates even more (UNFPA, Amsterdam Declaration on a Better Life for Future Generations, 1989; and WHO, Health for All by the Year 2000).

iii) To reduce maternal death rates, by at least 50%, with respect to the 1990 value (UNICEF, World Summit for Children).

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[6] Given that the Cairo Conference will probably set goals for the years 2005 and 2015, those announced here will be revised and enriched by those adopted at that conference.

Moreover, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have established the following goals:

i) To reduce, by at least 50%, the unsatisfied demand for contraceptive methods, that is, the percentage of women exposed to the risk of pregnancy who do not wish to have more children or wish to postpone pregnancy and do not use any contraceptive method. In particular, to make maximum efforts to reduce the incidence of unplanned and unwanted adolescent pregnancies.

ii) To reduce, by at least 50%, the differences between infant mortality rates, maternal mortality rates and the unsatisfied demand for family planning services, as observed among different places of residence, geographical locations and social groups.

iii) To attain real knowledge about safe contraceptive methods, as well as of where to obtain them, for all persons in their reproductive years, to substantially increase real access to those methods.

iv) To achieve the incorporation and institutionalization of matters related to population in the study programmes of all basic or primary and middle or secondary educational establishments.

v) To evaluate and revise national laws which may obstruct the full exercise of reproductive rights.

D. TERRITORIAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION AND INTERNAL MIGRATION

68. General objective: To promote a territorial distribution of the population which is conductive to changing production patterns of the economy, greater social and spatial equity and environmental sustainability.

69. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) To consider the significant impact of productive development strategies on migratory flows, so that the former will be designed in accordance with a more adequate territorial distribution of the population.

ii) To encourage programmes of regional development originating in the regions themselves, in an effective process of decentralization, which will include taking the more important public decisions at the local level.

iii) To encourage the diversification of migratory destinations, avoiding population concentrations in large urban nuclei, by developing intermediate cities, on the basis of the examination of their potential.

iv) To improve and extend the basic infrastructure of essential services and raise the environmental quality, particularly of marginal urban zones, especially those in the large metropolitan areas, and of rural areas, according to the needs of individual countries.

v) To reinforce rural development programmes, in support of small and mid-size farmers and micro-enterprises, which will influence both the location of productive activities and the well-being of the population.

vi) To promote measures to protect the environment against degradation caused by the expansion of human settlements into fragile ecosystems. These measures should promote the development of infrastructure and incentives for expansion into preferable zones.

vii) To reinforce programmes that attend persons displaced by sociopolitical conflicts within countries and include their return to places of origin and adequate reengagement in social and economic activities, with special attention to women.

viii) To give special attention to the situation of indigenous populations and other ethnic groups when considering the spatial impact of development strategies.

E. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

70. General objective: To harmonize international migratory trends with the objectives of development, so that migratory flows will not be a cause of controversy between countries, and to protect the human rights of persons who have migrated.

71. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) To promote surveys and on-going analysis of the diverse modalities and magnitude of migratory flows, taking into account their impact on demographic and economic trends in the countries of the region, especially the smallest countries, the island countries, and those in which the phenomenon is particularly significant, for the purpose of designing international migration policies. To promote the improvement of data sources, the exchange of information and research results, and the elaboration of periodic national and regional reports on international migration, with the support of the relevant international organizations, when considered convenient.

ii) To promote international, regional and bilateral agreements and the revision and renewal of national juridical frameworks, in order to normalize the situation of migrants, especially that of undocumented workers and refugees, and to ensure respect for their basic rights. In addition, to conduct campaigns to generate public opinion sensitivity so as to mitigate the rejection suffered by migrants for ethnic and social reasons. Simultaneously, to ensure respect for the basic rights and privileges of the receiving populations.

iii) To reinforce cooperation and the exchange of information among the countries of the region and with countries outside the region, with regard to their general policies for international migration, as well as to norms to regulate entry and residence within national territories.

iv) To establish economic and social programmes which will guarantee repatriation and adequate reinsertion for displaced persons and refugees, when the cause of their displacement has ended. To promote measures, in receiving countries, for the satisfaction of the basic needs of refugee groups not incorporated into repatriation processes. Special attention should be given to refugee and displaced women, given that they constitute a particularly vulnerable group.

v) To intensify social and economic development programmes, as well as pacification processes, so as to avoid involuntary movements of persons across international frontiers.

vi) To establish programmes designed to favour the permanence in their countries of origin, or the return and reincorporation, of qualified human resources. Particularly, to encourage scientific and technological cooperation between developed and developing countries, in order to increase the transfer of technology to the latter, in just and favourable conditions, and facilitate its diffusion and use in the latter. To reinforce cooperation among the countries of the region for the same purpose.

vii) To promote agreements with developed countries in order to reduce migration out of the region, by, among other things, encouraging foreign investments, technology transfer, and the transfer of industrial units and by facilitating exports to those countries by eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers.

viii) To give priority attention to population movements, especially those motivated by employment considerations, in the context of regional economic integration being set up in Latin America and the Caribbean, through the adoption of adequate instruments to confront new socio-economic developments.

F. THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF POPULATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

72. General objective: To develop institutional arrangements, at governmental level, which will make it possible to formulate, execute and evaluate population policy and programmes, according to the characteristics and requirements of individual countries and their overall development strategies; and to create social awareness on population issues and their linkage to sustainable development, social equity and human rights, through educational and communications programmes.

73. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) To review and renew existing juridical and institutional frameworks to ensure real integration between population policy and programmes and development strategies and programmes. It is particularly important to establish clear intersectoral and intrasectoral coordination mechanisms, in order to guarantee the consensus and participation of the different social agents involved.

ii) To motivate legislators, local governments, private-sector entities, non-governmental organizations, social sectors and ethnic groups so they will participate actively in the development of the necessary institutional frameworks for the design and execution of population policies and programmes. To reinforce awareness-raising activities focused on those groups with regard to the importance of taking demographic criteria into account in their diverse areas of competence, as well as the objectives and goals of population programmes, in order to ensure that they act in accordance with those considerations.

iii) To encourage the decentralized execution of population policies and programmes within each country, allowing for adjustment to diverse sociocultural conditions and easier identification of the geographic zones towards which resources should be channelled first.

iv) To promote greater understanding of the demographic reality of the region through school and adult educational processes, which will seek to create awareness of the problems inherent to the growth and the territorial distribution of the population, in order to develop participative, responsible and critical attitudes, in accordance with the population policy of each country.

v) To strengthen programmes of education in population in order to facilitate free and informed decision-making with respect to reproduction and place of residence, considering the objectives of population policy in each country and respecting cultural diversity.

vi) To design programmes and methods for education in population that are apt for diffusion through formal and informal educational systems and the mass media, and that cover the following issues: population and development, population and the environment, family, sex education and gender. To design mechanisms for the transmission of those issues adequate to the diverse social and ethnic groups of each country.

G. TRAINING, INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

74. General objective: To reinforce and promote the development of human resources, as well as research, the production and dissemination of knowledge and information which will make it possible to formulate, apply and evaluate population policies and programmes, together with the consideration of demographic trends in economic and social development policy and programmes.

75. Specific objectives and recommendations for action:

i) To intensify efforts at regional, subregional and national levels to train specialists on population, in order to solve present and future problems with respect to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies and programmes. To strengthen subregional and national infrastructure, especially in Central America and the Caribbean, for the teaching of demography and population and development. This should be done on the basis of international technical cooperation, taking into account and reinforcing the existing capacity of the ECLAC secretariat, including CELADE, and other national and subregional organizations and institutions working in the field.

ii) To strengthen national centres dedicated to research and the development of human resources in the area of population. Especially, to encourage the incorporation of courses on demographic variables and their linkages to development planning in university study programmes, mainly in the social sciences, economics and those related to health and the environment.

iii) To create and implement new, low-cost teaching methods in the area of population, which will respond to the broad range of demands of qualified personnel in that area. Training programmes should include updating and advanced training components, which could be provided by correspondence.

iv) To strengthen national and regional statistical organizations, improving the quality of censuses, promoting specialized surveys, assigning special attention to vital statistics and other sources, and encouraging the development of innovative sources and methods for collecting data. Those information sources should include the ecological dimension and employ units of analysis based on the existence of ecosystems. Special attention should also be given to the availability of information disaggregated by geographical area.

v) To ensure and strengthen initiatives with regard to national, subregional and regional networks of bibliographic information and numerical data bases, for use in the exchange of knowledge and experiences useful to the countries of the region. Likewise, the dissemination of magazines and periodical

publications which address issues related to demographic trends and their impact on the development of the countries of the region should be encouraged.

vi) To promote and support the creation of national and regional associations of population specialists and encourage the articulation of data networks on the availability of human resources and specialized institutions in this field.

vii) To reinforce research which will advance the integration of population policy and programmes into development plans and programmes, for which it will be necessary to encourage closer interaction among those responsible for the formulation of that policy and population researchers, at the regional, national and local levels.

IV. REGIONAL ACTIONS

76. In accordance with its general purposes, the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development proposes to support regional and subregional actions aimed at helping to achieve the objectives and goals of the countries of the region. In carrying out these actions, the countries and subregional and regional forums will seek the collaboration of all organizations and institutions, both national and international, that work in the area of population.

77. The list of regional actions contained in this Plan —which is not exhaustive— is based on the rich accumulated experience of the region and, for that reason, includes some elements already known and from which valuable lessons have been learned. At any rate, activities of proven efficacy, and not those which have only been implemented asystematically, have been selected. There are, as well, new proposals, the implementation of which will call for especially careful programming. Some grouping of activities will be of specific interest to a certain subregion or grouping of countries. This list of activities, once adjusted in light of the conclusions of the Cairo Conference, will continue to be supplemented by the initiatives of the countries.

A. PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Meetings for overall analysis

78. An overall analysis of the population situation in the region will be undertaken in the biennial meetings of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN). This will not preclude meetings at the subregional level or by groupings of countries with common interests to perform a similar analysis.

2. Seminars for analysis of issues

79. In order to create a forum for the exchange of experiences and knowledge among governmental, non-governmental and academic experts on issues relevant to the formulation, execution and evaluation of population policy and programmes, the Presiding Officers of CEGAN, with the support of the technical secretariat, in association with the relevant specialized organizations, including governmental organizations, will programme and propose to the countries and scientific community, a series of seminars on topics relevant to the national conditions of the countries of the region, in such a way that the technical and scientific treatment of the issue will serve as an input for the Governments of the region in their programmes and policies.

80. Some preliminary proposals:

i) A first seminar would be held in 1995 and would address social and population policies geared to overcome differences in demographic behaviour arising from diverse manifestations of the lack of equity (by gender, social groups, geographic zones, ethnic groups).

ii) A second seminar would also be held in 1995, tentatively on the following topic: Assessing the magnitude, modalities, causes and effects of international migration within the context of the political and socio-economic situation of the countries of the region most affected by this phenomenon.

iii) A third seminar would be held in 1996 tentatively on population information, communications and educational programmes on population issues, with special reference to the issues of reproductive health care, sex education and the prevention of transmissible diseases (such as HIV/AIDS).

iv) A fourth seminar would be held in 1998 tentatively on the relationships between demographic dynamics and the environment, with emphasis on spatial distribution and internal migration.

v) Discussion seminars with authorities of the executive and legislative branches, opinion leaders and political leaders on the interrelationships between population dynamics and the development process. Their purpose will be to strengthen awareness with respect to the importance of decisions with regard to population dynamics, as well as to the advantages of explicitly incorporating demographic variables in the formulation, follow-up and evaluation of economic and social policies.

vi) Seminars for media reporters and social communicators in the mass media and local newspapers, to promote awareness in those professionals with respect to the social importance of population issues, the need to integrate them into development and environmental concerns, as well as the possibility of adopting programmes and policies in that area, when society becomes aware of those issues and political leadership incorporates them into governmental tasks.

3. Thematic workshops

81. The purpose of these issue-focused and brief workshops will respond to the need to create awareness to population issues and help improve the execution of programmes and policies. During the first three years this Plan is in effect, workshops of this type will be held with regard to the following topics and target groups:

i) Workshops to provide for discussion among administrators of family planning services and mother and child programmes —especially those responsible for training and supervision—, in order to generate recommendations with regard to improving the organization, implementation and operational strategies of those services.

ii) Workshops for administrators of family planning programmes designed to create awareness of the use of diverse forms of contraception, including natural methods and with regard to the shared responsibility of men in contraception practice; to encourage the development of forms of counselling, especially those geared for potential users of sterilization, in order to dissipate ignorance with regard to its effects and to advise of the existence of alternatives.

iii) Workshops for doctors and medical students of the region designed to create awareness of the importance of medical records for the formulation of health policies and programmes.

iv) Workshops for research centres and researchers of the region designed to identify needs in the area of socio-demographic studies of common interest for the countries and to promote their implementation.

4. Training activities

82. Training activities will be organized to respond to country demand for training and development of human resources in demography and population at diverse levels —and training to perform applied research and operational tasks in the area of population— at the regional and subregional levels.

83. CELADE and other regional, subregional and national organizations which carry out or may perform functions at the regional level will continue to offer high-level training in population and will continue to consider the training needs of qualified technical personnel in those disciplines, as expressed by the countries on the basis of specific diagnoses. Special attention will be given to new population, environmental and development problems as they emerge in the region. These issues will guide the acceptance of potential students and the design of study programmes, both of the Post-graduate Course on Population and Development, given by CELADE, with UNFPA support, and of intensive regional courses on demographic analysis.

84. Together with the services offered by diverse national organizations in the field of population, any country of the region which deems it necessary could request technical assistance in organizing and offering courses to train specialists in population issues in the region. Special attention will be given to the needs of Central American and Caribbean countries, as well as to other countries in the early phase of demographic transition. Intensive two-week courses will be provided for the Caribbean subregion over the next three years in the following areas:

i) Census evaluation.
ii) Population projections.
iii) The development and institutionalization of family life programmes.
iv) Family planning programming, management and counselling.
v) The development of programmes to address adolescent fertility.
vi) Database development and management.

85. Regional training activities will also include short courses, in which specific topics considered important by the countries will be addressed (census and survey programming, management of family planning programmes, management of sociodemographic projects, use of new technologies to manage sociodemographic information geographically disaggregated, among others). As well, other advanced training and updating modalities will be offered (courses, workshops and seminars) for persons already qualified in the field of population. Finally, attention will be given to the possibility of providing home learning courses.

86. In order to respond to insufficiencies in training, during the first year this Regional Plan is in effect, the necessary steps will be taken to form a working group to collect and systematize, on the basis of accumulated experience, support material for courses on population and development. That group will

prepare material, taking into account the current demand, supply and existing resources, and —if deemed appropriate— with the collaboration of organizations with experience in that activity.

5. Working groups

87. Existing working groups will be strengthened and the formation of others with national specialists will be encouraged to collaborate in the identification of the progress in the different areas and in the evaluation of national needs in those matters. If possible, they should help create methodological instruments for the design and implementation of programmes and policy. Moreover, those working groups will be responsible for contributing to the preparation and implementation of the thematic workshops, foreseen in this Plan, for the exchange of experiences.

88. In accordance with the activities contained in those thematic workshops, action will be coordinated to implement, during the first years this Regional Plan is in effect, working groups on the following topics: relationships between demographic dynamics and poverty, taking into account the possibilities of breaking the "vicious circle" of poverty as conceived within the strategy of changing the patterns of production with social equity; the environment, within the context of sustainable development, with special emphasis on spatial distribution and migratory flows; migration and the international mobility of population, with special attention given to the processes of economic globalization and the integration of markets; information, communications and educational programmes on population, with special reference to the issues of reproductive health, sex education and the prevention of transmissible diseases such as AIDS; and social and population policies geared to overcome differences in demographic behaviour arising from diverse manifestations of the lack of equity (gender, social groups, geographic areas).

6. Horizontal cooperation among the countries of the region[7]

89. Horizontal cooperation among the countries of the region, in accordance with the initiative of the countries, will be facilitated by the Presiding Officers of CEGAN, with the support of the technical secretariat, through consultation with the countries which will benefit from the technical cooperation and with the countries supplying it. The contents, number of actions and execution periods will depend on each specific problem to be addressed and the possibilities of the countries which will be providing that potential cooperation. The Presiding Officers of CEGAN, with the collaboration of the secretariat, will also facilitate bilateral or multilateral agreements, and in accordance with the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, for the purpose of achieving the objectives and goals of this Regional Plan of Action more easily.

90. Without prejudice to the issues proposed by the countries concerned, the Presiding Officers of CEGAN, in coordination with existing organizations, will encourage horizontal cooperation among countries with a view to improving sources of information, data exchange and the communication of the results of research to nurture diagnoses, periodic national and regional reports and the implementation of policy and programmes with regard to population issues integrated into economic and social development. Other high priority areas for horizontal cooperation are the design and execution of

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[7] These activities complement, but do not replace, existing mechanisms.

population policy; specific policies related to the spatial distribution of the population and to environmental issues; the implementation of family planning services; population information, educational and communications programmes; and the institutionalization of population policies.

91. To support this type of cooperation, a directory of institutions and professionals specialized in population issues will be maintained and broadened, in consultation and coordination with the Latin American Programme of Population Activities (PROLAP), the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and other national and international entities. Reference data on researchers, technicians and other persons with experience in the formulation and execution of policy and programmes, in either the public or private sector, will be fed into that directory.

92. As soon as this Regional Plan is in effect, initiatives will be undertaken to promote agreements among countries with regard to international migration. To that end, the collaboration of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will be sought. Those agreements will, among other things, seek to ensure respect for the rights of migrants and their families on the part of receiving countries, as well as non-discrimination in the labour market, in access to social services (education, health care, housing, justice, social security) and in the enjoyment of the benefits of the liberty and participation proper to all democratic societies.

93. Likewise, in cooperation with IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), starting with the first year of implementation of this Regional Plan, agreements will be reached among countries to obtain the support of the international community for increased attention to repatriation and resettlement programmes for refugee or displaced populations, so as to contribute to their effective reincorporation into the economic and social development process. Similarly, the adoption of agreements among countries in other areas of common interest will be encouraged. Special efforts will be made to ensure that the international community participates in activities designed to ensure a better understanding of the courses of mass exoduses and in the search for solutions which recognize the basic human rights and the vulnerability of emigrants. As well, the collaboration of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) will be called upon to achieve the support of the international community for refugee and displaced them into the economic and social development process. Similarly, agreements will be sought among the countries in other fields of common interest.

7. Joint research

94. The countries of the region will organize and implement research projects at regional and subregional levels, as well as comparative or complementary studies among countries. National governmental and non-governmental institutions competent in the area of population studies, with the methodological and analytical cooperation of specialized international and regional institutions, will collaborate in that task. The objective of that research is to broaden and deepen knowledge about key aspects of population dynamics, their variables and the socio-economic and cultural context which determine them, and about the relationships between population, the environment and poverty, and to develop policy and programmatic recommendations, on the basis of the results of research already performed in the countries of the region.

95. The following activities are suggested for inclusion in those joint research projects:

i) To identify and measure the concrete relationships between environmental and demographic variables, in order to propose a first level of programmatic congruence, especially with regard to ecosystems where regional or frontier integration is being promoted, as well as in the small island and low-lying coastal countries.

ii) To explain the relationship between human settlement patterns, including urbanization trends, internal migratory flows and economic, social, cultural and political variables, especially in terms of the environment, employment and poverty.

iii) To determine the magnitude, modalities and causes and effects of international mobility, within the context of the political and socio-economic situation of the countries of the region most affected by this phenomenon; special attention should be paid to the impact of international mobility upon the working age population. Emphasis should also be given to the analysis of the repercussions of the economic integration processes on population mobility and other aspects of demographic dynamics.

iv) To identify the sociocultural factors at play in sexual and reproductive behaviour, especially in the use of contraceptives; to intensify operational research from an integrated perspective, in order to improve reproductive health care, especially family planning services, and the efficiency of population educational and communications programmes. To study the magnitude, as well as the causes and effects, of induced abortion in order to propose more specific action in this regard. To consider different biomedical and socio-cultural aspects of the relationship between reproductive health and maternal-infant mortality.

v) To identify the causal factors and effects of adolescent fertility, in order to elaborate policies which will favour the reincorporation of teenage mothers into educational, work and general social activities.

vi) To comprehend in greater depth the socio-demographic characteristics of the indigenous populations and diverse ethnic groups, in order to ensure the adaptation of the measures taken in the areas of population and development to those groups.

vii) To analyse the socio-economic trends and effects of the ageing process with a view to suggesting policy measures related, especially, to social security systems and health care.

viii) To research the effects of the processes of "structural adjustment" on demographic variables and their impact on the role and structure of the family.

96. Those projects should provide criteria to serve as a basis for Governments as they adopt population policies and programmes and, when pertinent, should include the perspective of gender issues in the development of that research. Subregions with particular interest in specific subjects should coordinate research in those areas.

8. Data banks and regional information networks

97. Fulfilment of the objectives and goals of this Regional Plan requires effective mechanisms for communication and information exchange. Thus, it is necessary to reinforce and improve existing mechanisms and to propose new initiatives. Inter alia, the following activities are suggested:

i) To maintain and strengthen the regional bibliographic data base related to population (Latin American Population Documentation System, DOCPAL) and ensure its services to the countries and international organizations which support this Plan.

ii) To support the development of the Latin American and Caribbean Population Information Network (IPALCA) between national and regional centres. As well, to encourage interconnections among national, regional and global networks on population issues and the like, such as the United Nations Population Information Network.

iii) To strengthen and maintain a bibliographic database on population in the Caribbean subregion, which will be linked to other regional bibliographic databases.

iv) To maintain the regional census data bank managed by CELADE, requesting the countries to provide the 1990s round of census archives or samples for that purpose. To further develop the socio-demographic data bank in ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.[8]

v) To continue the programme of Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA), which consists in gathering the records of those "born abroad" and their characteristics, as numbered in national population censuses. To ensure the delivery of that information, including a basic analysis, to interested countries.[9]

vi) To develop and maintain a data bank on international and interregional migration for the Caribbean subregion in order to gather the records of those "born abroad" as well as those "gone abroad" and their characteristics, as numbered in national censuses and other records.

vii) To ensure the continuance of the Household Survey Data Bank, managed by the Statistics Division of ECLAC, and up-to-date and timely delivery of that information.[10]

viii) To promote improved access to available information from health and fertility surveys.

ix) To favour the strengthening of user networks of information systems based on multisectoral data banks and automated cartography procedures. To promote the exchange of experiences in the use of REDATAM-Plus (retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer) and geographic information systems.

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[8] In these cases, as has been the custom, the receiving entity will not process information requests, at the level of microdata, until express instructions have been received from the proper national authorities.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Ibid.

x) To promote communication between national organizations and specialized organizations, through systems of electronic mail with user access, in order to ensure and improve the activities called for by this plan, at low cost.

xi) To publish a periodic bulletin which will make it possible for the countries of the region to be informed of the activities undertaken within the framework of the Regional Plan for Action.

B. COORDINATION, FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW MECHANISMS

98. A Special ECLAC Sessional Committee on Population and Development consisting of representatives of Latin American and Caribbean member countries should be charged with the ultimate responsibility for following-up and the revision of issues related to population and development, including the Regional Plan of Action. The meetings of the Special Committee should be complemented by a mechanism which will ensure the continuance of that coordination and the follow-up and review during the periods between those meetings and will also convene, organize and support those meetings. That mechanism will be the Presiding Officers of the Special Committee, which will perform the coordination and follow-up of the actions of this Regional Plan. The ECLAC secretariat will act as secretariat. In the case of the subregional action plans on population and development, the formulation, execution, coordination, follow-up and evaluation will be carried out by the appropriate subregional organizations and mechanisms. In the case of the Caribbean subregion, this organization will be CDCC.

99. In the biennial meetings of the Special Committee, the agenda will include the analysis of the implementation of the actions provided for in this Regional Plan; the following basic agenda is proposed:

i) Analysis of progress in the execution of the diverse components of the Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, including the exchange of experiences, agreements among countries and horizontal cooperation.

ii) Evaluation of the degree of institutionalization of population policies and programmes; main achievements and obstacles to their execution.

iii) Other topics proposed by the countries of the region, arising from the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action, or new socio-demographic situations in the region.

100. The ECLAC secretariat will assist the Presiding Officers of the Special Committee and designated subregional organizations in coordinating the execution of regional and subregional activities. It will fulfil that function in close cooperation with the international organizations and relevant areas within the United Nations, especially UNFPA.

101. In the spirit of the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, the Presiding Officers of the Sessional Committee, in consultation with the ECLAC secretariat, will explore and investigate new forms and sources of financing to strengthen ECLAC/CELADE, with particular emphasis on its activities in Central America, and the subregional offices of ECLAC, in order to benefit countries and meet their needs. By the same token, the actions of UNFPA in the region should be strengthened.

C. FINANCING OF REGIONAL PLAN ACTIVITIES

102. The countries of the region adopted the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development at the Regional Conference, held in Mexico City between 29 April and 4 May 1993. That Consensus contains repeated recommendations to increase the contributions of the international community (developed countries, other bilateral donors and multilateral organizations) for population concerns (see paragraphs II.7.1, II.8.1, II.8.2, II.8.4 and II.8.9).

103. By adopting the declaration included in that Consensus, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean expressed "their commitment to apply their recommendations and, in this context, to take the necessary steps to that end, at the institutional level and in the domestic mobilization of resources" (paragraph II.8.11).

104. To ensure the implementation of this Plan, a budget must be prepared, detailing items of expenditure and contributions from the international community and the region itself. A budget for 1995 will be prepared; subsequently, starting in 1996-1997, biennial budgets will be prepared.

105. Resources for the implementation of the Plan will consist of contributions in kind, services and financial resources contributed voluntarily by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, contributions from regional and international bodies, voluntary contributions from the developed countries members of ECLAC and other members of the international community and contributions from the various non-governmental organizations. The Presiding Officers will propose a plan for obtaining resources and measures for ensuring that specific projects and the Plan as a whole are properly implemented, for which purpose they will seek the support of the secretariat and UNFPA.

ANNEX

Diagram 1

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: COUNTRY SITUATION BY STAGE IN DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, 1985 - 1990

Birth rate

H I G H			NICARAGUA	3.5	BOLIVIA	2.6		
			GUATEMALA	3.2	HAITI	2.3		
			HONDURAS	3.2				
			BELIZE	3.2				
			EL SALVADOR	2.6				
			PARAGUAY	2.8				
				II		I		
M O D E R A T E	GRENADA	2.5	ECUADOR	2.5				
	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2.5	PERU	2.2				
	MEXICO	2.4		III				
	COSTA RICA	2.5						
	VENEZUELA	2.3						
	SURINAME	2.2						
	PANAMA	2.2						
	COLOMBIA	2.0						
	DOMINICA	1.9						
	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	1.9	BRAZIL	1.9				
	SAINT LUCIA	1.9	GUYANA	1.9				
	JAMAICA	1.7	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	1.1				
	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	1.8						
L O W	CHILE	1.7		IV				
	BAHAMAS	1.5						
			GUADALOUPE	1.3				
			ARGENTINA	1.3				
	BRITISH VIRGIN ISLAND	1.3	PUERTO RICO	1.1				
	MARTINIQUE	1.2	URUGUAY	0.8				
	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	1.1	BARBADOS	0.7				
	CUBA	1.1	MONTSERRAT	0.6				

Death rate

LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
Rates per thousands:		
Birth rate: HIGH: 32 - 45	MODERATE: 24 - 32	LOW: 10 - 24
Death rate: HIGH: 11 - 16	MODERATE: 7 - 11	LOW: 4 - 7

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992; Boland, Barbara, *Population dynamics and development in the Caribbean* (DDR/2), ECLAC/UNFPA/CELADE, reference document prepared for the Meeting of Government Experts on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Saint Lucia, 6-9 October 1992.

Note: Next to each country, the natural population increase is expressed as a percentage.

Table 1

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: TOTAL POPULATION, 1950-2000

(In thousands)

Country or territory	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Regional total	**165 121**	**216 615**	**283 204**	**358 925**	**441 063**	**522 961**
Latin America	**158 812**	**209 213**	**274 540**	**349 200**	**430 184**	**510 941**
Argentina	17 150	20 616	23 962	28 237	32 322	36 238
Bolivia	2 766	3 428	4 325	5 581	7 171	9 038
Brazil	53 444	72 594	95 847	121 286	149 042	172 777
Colombia	11 946	15 939	21 360	26 525	32 300	37 822
Costa Rica	862	1 236	1 731	2 284	3 034	3 798
Cuba	5 850	6 985	8 520	9 679	10 608	11 504
Chile	6 082	7 614	9 504	11 145	13 173	15 272
Ecuador	3 310	4 413	6 051	8 123	10 547	13 090
El Salvador	1 940	2 570	3 588	4 525	5 172	6 425
Guatemala	2 969	3 964	5 246	6 917	9 197	12 222
Haiti	3 261	3 804	4 520	5 353	6 486	7 959
Honduras	1 401	1 935	2 627	3 662	5 138	6 846
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	2	2	2	2	2	2
Mexico	27 297	36 530	50 328	67 046	84 486	102 555
Nicaragua	1 109	1 502	2 063	2 802	3 676	5 169
Panama	839	1 105	1 487	1 956	2 418	2 893
Paraguay	1 351	1 774	2 351	3 147	4 277	5 538
Peru	7 632	9 931	13 193	17 295	21 550	26 276
Dominican Republic	2 353	3 231	4 423	5 697	7 170	8 621
Uruguay	2 239	2 538	2 808	2 914	3 094	3 274
Venezuela	5 009	7 502	10 604	15 024	19 321	23 622
The Caribbean	**6 309**	**7 402**	**8 664**	**9 725**	**10 879**	**12 020**
Anguila	5	6	6	7	7	8
Antigua and Barbuda	46	55	66	61	65	70
Netherlands Antilles	116	137	162	171	175	178
Aruba	57	59	61	60	61	63
Bahamas	79	110	170	210	255	295
Barbados	211	231	239	249	257	268
Belize	67	91	120	146	189	229
Dominique	51	60	70	75	72	71
Grenada	76	90	94	89	91	94
Guadaloupe	210	275	320	327	390	437
French Guiana	25	33	49	69	98	130
Guyana	423	569	709	759	796	883
Cayman Islands	6	9	10	17	27	40
British Virgin Islands	6	7	10	12	16	21
United States Virgin Islands	27	33	64	98	107	109
Jamaica	1 403	1 629	1 869	2 133	2 420	2 677
Martinique	222	282	326	326	360	391
Montserrat	14	12	11	12	11	11
Puerto Rico	2 219	2 358	2 718	3 206	3 530	3 853
Saint Kitts and Nevis	44	51	47	44	42	41
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	67	80	87	98	107	117
Saint Lucia	79	86	101	115	133	152
Suriname	215	290	372	352	422	500
Trinidad and Tobago	636	843	971	1 082	1 236	1 365
Turks and Caicos Islands	5	6	6	7	12	17

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

Table 2

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: GLOBAL BIRTH RATE BY FIVE YEAR PERIODS, BY COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES GROUPED ACCORDING TO STAGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, 1950-2000

Countries	Five year periods									
	1950-1955	1955-1960	1960-1965	1965-1970	1970-1975	1975-1980	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000
Latin America	**5.9**	**5.9**	**6.0**	**5.6**	**5.0**	**4.4**	**3.9**	**3.4**	**3.1**	**2.8**
The Caribbean and others [a]	**5.2**	**5.1**	**5.5**	**5.0**	**4.4**	**3.5**	**3.2**	**3.0**	**2.8**	**2.8**
Group I										
Bolivia	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.2	5.5	5.0	4.6	4.1
Haiti	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.0	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.8	4.6
Group II										
El Salvador	6.5	6.8	6.9	6.6	6.1	5.7	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.6
Guatemala	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.1	5.8	5.4	4.9
Honduras	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.4	6.6	6.2	5.6	4.9	4.3
Nicaragua	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.2	6.8	6.4	6.0	5.6	5.0	4.5
Paraguay	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.4	5.7	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.3	4.1
Group III										
Brazil	6.2	6.2	6.2	5.3	4.7	4.2	3.8	3.2	2.8	2.4
Colombia	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.3	4.7	4.1	3.5	2.9	2.7	2.5
Costa Rica	6.7	7.1	7.0	5.8	4.3	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.0
Ecuador	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.1	5.4	4.7	4.1	3.6	3.2
Guyana	6.7	6.8	6.2	6.1	4.9	3.9	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.3
Jamaica	4.2	5.1	5.6	5.8	5.0	4.0	3.6	2.7	2.4	2.1
Mexico	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.4	5.0	4.3	3.6	3.2	2.8
Panama	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.6	4.9	4.1	3.5	3.1	2.9	2.7
Peru	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.0	5.4	4.7	4.0	3.6	3.2
Dominican Republic	7.4	7.4	7.3	6.7	5.6	4.7	4.2	3.8	3.3	3.0
Suriname	6.6	6.6	6.6	5.9	5.3	4.2	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.4
Trinidad and Tobago	5.3	5.3	5.0	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.7	2.5
Venezuela	6.5	6.5	6.5	5.9	5.0	4.5	3.9	3.5	3.1	2.9
Group IV										
Argentina	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.7
Bahamas	4.2	3.7	3.9	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.0	1.9
Barbados	4.7	4.7	4.3	3.5	2.7	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.9
Cuba	4.1	3.7	4.7	4.3	3.5	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0
Chile	5.1	5.3	5.3	4.4	3.6	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6
Guadaloupe	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.2	4.5	3.1	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.0
Martinique	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.0	4.1	2.7	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9
Puerto Rico	5.0	4.8	4.4	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.1
Uruguay	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.3

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

[a] Includes Anguila, Antigua, Aruba, United States and British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominique, Grenada, Montserrat, Dutch Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Table 3

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, BY COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES GROUPED ACCORDING TO STAGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, 1950-2000

Region and countries	Life expectancy			Five year period increase		Life expectancy
	1950-1955	1970-1975	1985-1990	1950-1955 a 1970-1975	1970-1975 a 1985-1990	Year 2000
Latin America	**51.8**	**61.3**	**66.7**	**2.4**	**1.8**	**69.8**
The Caribbean and others [a]	**52.0**	**63.1**	**67.6**	**2.8**	**1.5**	**70.3**
Group I						
Bolivia	40.4	46.7	58.8	1.6	4.0	64.5
Haiti	37.6	48.5	54.7	2.7	2.1	59.4
Group II						
El Salvador	45.3	58.8	62.4	3.4	1.2	69.1
Guatemala	42.1	54.0	62.0	3.0	2.7	68.1
Honduras	42.3	54.0	64.0	2.9	3.3	68.2
Nicaragua	42.3	55.2	62.4	3.2	2.4	69.2
Paraguay	62.6	65.6	66.9	0.7	0.4	67.9
Group III						
Brazil	51.0	59.8	64.9	2.2	1.7	68.0
Colombia	50.6	61.6	68.2	2.8	2.2	70.7
Costa Rica	57.3	68.1	75.3	2.7	2.4	77.1
Ecuador	48.4	58.9	65.4	2.6	2.2	68.2
Guyana	52.3	60.0	63.2	1.9	1.1	67.7
Jamaica	57.2	68.6	72.5	2.9	1.3	75.1
Mexico	50.8	62.9	68.8	3.0	2.0	72.0
Panama	55.3	66.3	72.1	2.8	1.9	73.5
Peru	43.9	55.5	61.4	2.9	2.0	67.9
Dominican Republic	46.0	59.9	65.9	3.5	2.0	69.7
Suriname	56.0	64.0	68.8	2.0	1.6	72.1
Trinidad and Tobago	58.2	65.7	70.1	1.9	1.5	73.1
Venezuela	55.2	66.2	69.7	2.8	1.1	71.3
Group IV						
Argentina	62.7	67.3	70.6	1.1	1.1	72.3
Bahamas	59.8	66.6	71.1	1.7	1.5	73.9
Barbados	57.2	69.4	74.6	3.1	1.7	76.8
Cuba	59.5	71.0	75.2	2.9	1.4	76.3
Chile	53.8	63.6	71.5	2.5	2.6	72.7
Guadaloupe	56.5	67.8	73.6	2.8	1.9	75.9
Martinique	56.5	69.2	75.4	3.2	2.1	77.3
Puerto Rico	64.8	72.5	74.3	1.9	0.6	75.9
Uruguay	66.3	68.8	72.0	0.6	1.1	73.0

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

[a] Includes Anguila, Antigua, Aruba, United States and British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominique, Grenada, Montserrat, Dutch Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Table 4

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF GROWTH, 1950-2000

(Percentages)

Region and countries	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000
Regional total	**2.71**	**2.68**	**2.37**	**2.06**	**1.70**
Latin America	**2.76**	**2.72**	**2.41**	**2.09**	**1.72**
Argentina	1.84	1.50	1.64	1.35	1.14
Bolivia	2.15	2.32	2.55	2.51	2.31
Brazil	3.06	2.78	2.35	2.06	1.48
Colombia	2.88	2.93	2.17	1.97	1.58
Costa Rica	3.60	3.37	2.77	2.84	2.25
Cuba	1.77	1.99	1.28	0.92	0.81
Chile	2.25	2.22	1.59	1.67	1.48
Ecuador	2.88	3.16	2.94	2.61	2.16
El Salvador	2.81	3.34	2.32	1.34	2.17
Guatemala	2.89	2.80	2.77	2.85	2.84
Haiti	1.54	1.72	1.69	1.92	2.05
Honduras	3.23	3.06	3.32	3.39	2.87
Mexico	2.91	3.20	2.87	2.31	1.94
Nicaragua	3.03	3.17	3.06	2.71	3.41
Panama	2.75	2.97	2.74	2.12	1.79
Paraguay	2.72	2.82	2.92	3.07	2.58
Peru	2.63	2.84	2.71	2.20	1.98
Dominican Republic	3.17	3.14	2.53	2.30	1.84
Uruguay	1.25	1.01	0.37	0.60	0.57
Venezuela	4.04	3.46	3.48	2.52	2.01
The Caribbean and others	**1.60**	**1.57**	**1.16**	**1.12**	**1.00**
Netherlands Antilles	1.66	1.68	0.54	0.23	0.17
Bahamas	3.31	4.35	2.11	1.94	1.46
Barbados	0.91	0.34	0.41	0.32	0.42
Belize	3.06	2.77	1.96	2.58	1.92
Dominique	1.63	1.54	0.69	-0.41	-0.14
Grenada	1.69	0.43	-0.55	0.22	0.32
Guadaloupe	2.70	1.52	0.22	1.76	1.14
French Guiana	2.78	3.95	3.42	3.51	2.83
Guyana	2.97	2.20	0.68	0.48	1.04
Jamaica	1.49	1.37	1.32	1.26	1.01
Martinique	2.39	1.45	0.00	0.99	0.83
Puerto Rico	0.61	1.42	1.65	0.96	0.88
Saint Lucia	0.85	1.61	1.30	1.45	1.34
Suriname	2.99	2.49	-0.55	1.81	1.70
Trinidad and Tobago	2.82	1.41	1.08	1.33	0.99
Others territories	1.37	1.45	1.22	0.89	0.88
Anguila	1.82	0.00	1.54	0.00	1.34
Antigua and Barbuda	1.79	1.82	-0.79	0.64	0.74
Aruba	0.34	0.33	-0.17	0.17	0.32
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cayman Islands	4.05	1.05	5.31	4.63	3.93
British Virgin Islands	1.54	3.57	1.82	2.88	2.72
United States Virgin Islands	2.01	6.62	4.26	0.88	0.19
Montserrat	-1.54	-0.87	0.87	-0.87	0.00
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1.48	-0.82	-0.66	-0.47	-0.24
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1.77	0.84	1.19	0.88	0.89
Turks and Caicos Islands	1.82	0.00	1.54	5.39	3.48

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

Table 5

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: INFANT DEATH RATES 1950-1955, 1970-1975, 1985-1990 AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2000, ANNUAL BIRTHS 1985-1990, BY COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES GROUPED ACCORDING TO STAGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION

(Rates per thousand)

Region and countries	Death rate			Five year period reduction		Rate year 2000	Annual births 1985-90	
	1950-1955	1970-1975	1985-1990	1950-1970	1970-1985		Thousands	Percentage
Latin America	**127**	**81**	**54**	**11.5**	**9.0**	**40**	**11 514**	
The Caribbean and others [a]	**124**	**73**	**52**	**12.8**	**7.0**	**41**	**203**	
Total							**11 717**	**100.0**
Group I								
Bolivia	176	151	98	6.3	17.7	67	248	
Haiti	220	135	97	21.3	12.7	72	224	
Total							472	**4.0**
Group II								
El Salvador	151	99	59	13.0	13.3	36	172	
Guatemala	141	95	59	11.5	12.0	37	350	
Honduras	185	94	63	22.8	10.3	45	189	
Nicaragua	167	100	71	16.8	9.7	42	150	
Paraguay	73	55	49	4.5	2.0	44	139	
Total							**1 000**	**8.5**
Group III								
Brazil	135	91	63	11.0	9.3	48	3 801	
Colombia	123	73	40	12.5	11.0	33	802	
Costa Rica	94	53	16	10.3	12.3	12	82	
Ecuador	140	95	63	11.3	10.7	49	321	
Guyana	119	79	56	10.0	7.7	39	21	
Jamaica	85	42	17	10.8	8.3	11	57	
Mexico	114	68	41	11.5	9.0	28	2 400	
Panama	93	43	23	12.5	6.7	19	62	
Peru	159	110	88	12.3	7.3	63	636	
Dominican Republic	149	94	65	13.8	9.7	46	213	
Suriname	89	49	33	10.0	5.3	22	11	
Trinidad and Tobago	79	42	24	9.3	6.0	15	32	
Venezuela	106	49	36	14.3	4.3	30	519	
Total							**8 900**	**76.0**
Group IV								
Argentina	66	49	32	4.3	5.7	25	669	
Bahamas	80	32	26	12.0	2.0	17	...	
Barbados	132	33	12	25.8	7.0	9	4	
Cuba	81	39	15	10.5	8.0	13	182	
Chile	126	70	18	14.0	17.3	15	301	
Guadaloupe	68	42	14	6.5	9.3	11	7	
Martinique	65	35	11	7.5	8.0	9	6	
Puerto Rico	63	25	14	9.5	3.7	12	65	
Uruguay	57	46	24	2.8	7.3	16	54	
Total							**1 345**	**11.5**

Source: CELADE, current population projections; United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision*, New York, 1992.

[a] Includes Anguila, Antigua, Aruba, United States and British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominique, Grenada, Montserrat, Dutch Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Table 6

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATED GLOBAL BIRTH RATE, PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN BETWEEN 15-49 YEARS OLD, CURRENTLY MARRIED, BY KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS AND GLOBAL UNDESIRED BIRTH RATE

(Programme of Demographic and Health Surveys DHS)

Countries	Year of DHS	GBT 1985-1990[a]	Percentage which knows of a modern method[b]	Percentage which currently uses a method	Percentage which currently uses a modern method[b]	Global undesired birth rate[c]
Group I						
Bolivia	1989	5.0	68	30	12	1.8
Group II						
El Salvador	1985	4.5	93	47	45	1.1
Guatemala[d]	1987	5.8	72	23	19	0.7
Paraguay	1990	4.6	96	48	35	1.2
Group III						
Brazil[d]	1986	3.2	100	66	57	0.7
Colombia	1990	2.9	100	66	55	0.7
Ecuador	1987	4.1	90	44	36	0.7
Mexico	1987	3.6	93	53	45	-
Peru	1991	4.0	95	59	33	1.5
Dominican Republic	1991	3.8	100	56	52	0.7
Trinidad and Tobago	1987	3.0	99	53	44	-

Source: Table 2 of the statistical annex; National Reports of the Programme of Demographic and Health Surveys DHS.
[a] Global birth rate. [b] Mechanical and chemical procedures to impede fecundation. [c] Corresponds to the difference between the global birth rate and the global desired birth rate recorded by the surveys. [d] Women aged 15 to 44.

Table 7

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: RELATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES GROUPED ACCORDING TO STAGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION, BY LARGE AGE GROUPS, 1950-2000

(Percentages)

Region and countries	1950			1990			2000		
	<15	15-64	65 and over	<15	15-64	65 and over	<15	15-64	65 and over
Latin America	**40.4**	**56.1**	**3.5**	**35.8**	**59.5**	**4.7**	**31.7**	**62.9**	**5.4**
The Caribbean and others	**39.5**	**55.9**	**4.6**	**31.2**	**62.3**	**6.5**	**30.2**	**63.0**	**6.8**
Group I									
Bolivia	42.0	54.9	3.1	41.4	55.0	3.6	38.1	57.7	4.2
Haiti	36.8	58.0	5.2	40.2	55.7	4.1	39.9	56.3	3.8
Group II									
El Salvador	42.8	54.2	3.1	43.5	52.7	3.8	38.9	56.7	4.4
Guatemala	44.1	53.4	2.6	45.4	51.4	3.2	42.9	53.3	3.7
Honduras	44.7	53.4	1.9	44.6	52.2	3.3	41.2	55.4	3.5
Nicaragua	44.0	53.0	3.0	47.9	49.1	3.0	43.6	53.2	3.2
Paraguay	42.9	53.9	3.2	40.4	56.1	3.6	38.3	58.2	3.6
Group III									
Brazil	42.0	55.5	2.5	34.7	60.7	4.7	29.1	65.3	5.6
Colombia	42.7	53.7	3.7	35.3	60.5	4.2	30.4	64.9	4.7
Costa Rica	43.3	52.9	3.7	36.5	59.3	4.2	33.1	61.8	5.1
Ecuador	41.9	53.5	4.6	39.3	56.9	3.8	34.8	61.0	4.2
Guyana	48.4	48.3	3.3	33.4	62.8	3.8	29.3	66.4	4.3
Mexico	43.0	52.8	4.2	38.0	58.3	3.7	33.8	61.7	4.5
Panama	41.0	55.1	3.9	35.0	60.3	4.8	31.5	63.1	5.4
Peru	41.6	55.0	3.5	37.6	58.6	3.8	33.6	61.8	4.6
Dominican Republic	44.5	52.3	3.2	37.9	58.7	3.4	33.9	61.9	4.3
Suriname	47.5	48.4	4.1	34.0	61.8	4.2	30.9	64.0	5.1
Trinidad and Tobago	43.0	53.0	4.0	34.0	60.5	5.5	30.5	64.0	5.5
Venezuela	43.6	54.6	1.8	37.2	59.1	3.7	32.4	63.1	4.5
Group IV									
Argentina	30.5	65.3	4.2	29.9	61.0	9.1	27.2	62.9	9.8
Barbados	38.1	55.2	6.7	24.5	63.7	11.8	22.2	66.7	11.1
Cuba	35.8	59.3	4.9	22.7	68.8	8.5	23.4	67.3	9.4
Chile	36.7	59.0	4.3	30.6	63.4	6.0	29.4	63.9	6.7
Guadaloupe	43.1	51.8	5.1	27.0	64.1	8.9	27.4	62.8	9.8
Jamaica	41.7	54.0	4.3	33.2	60.2	6.6	28.6	65.0	6.4
Martinique	42.4	53.1	4.5	24.1	65.9	10.0	25.3	63.4	11.3
Puerto Rico	42.8	52.0	5.2	26.0	63.5	10.5	24.6	64.3	11.1
Uruguay	27.9	63.9	8.2	25.8	62.6	11.6	23.9	63.5	12.7

Source: CELADE, current population projections, and United Nations, *World Population Prospects, 1990* (ST/ESA/SER.A/120), New York, 1991.